

NEWS RELEASE

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Consumer Price Index, Portland – First Half 2016

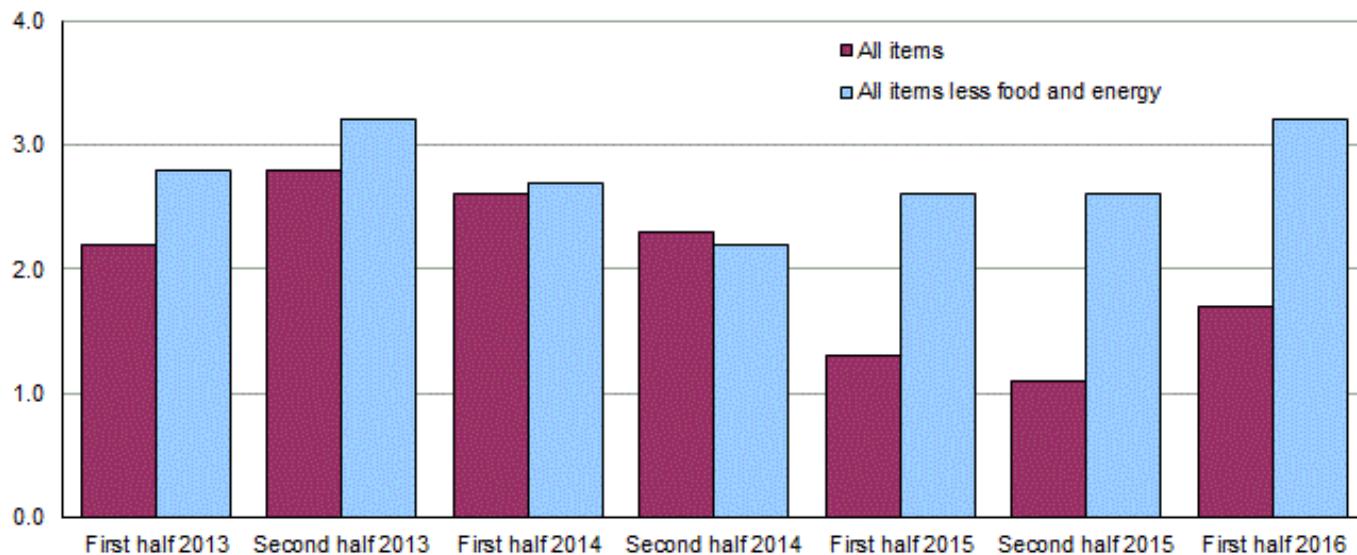
Area prices were up 0.7 percent over the past six months, up 1.7 percent from a year ago

Prices in the Portland Area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), increased 0.7 percent in the first half of 2016, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A](#).) Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Richard Holden noted that the six-month increase was influenced by higher prices for shelter. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, six-month-to-six-month changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U increased 1.7 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) Energy prices fell 10.8 percent, largely the result of a decrease in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy rose 3.2 percent over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Portland, first half 2013–first half 2016

Percent change



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices decreased 0.4 percent in the first half of 2016. (See [table 1](#).) Prices for food at home decreased 0.8 percent, but prices for food away from home advanced 0.2 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices decreased 0.4 percent. Prices for food at home moved down 1.3 percent since a year ago, but prices for food away from home moved up 0.7 percent.

Energy

The energy index decreased 9.4 percent since the second half of 2015. The decline was mainly due to lower prices for gasoline (-15.6 percent). Prices for natural gas service decreased 5.0 percent, and electricity prices decreased 2.3 percent for the same period.

Energy prices fell 10.8 percent over the year, largely due to lower prices for gasoline (-17.4 percent). Prices paid for natural gas service decreased 7.4 percent, and prices for electricity declined 2.1 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy moved up 1.7 percent in the latest six-month period. Higher prices for shelter (3.1 percent) and education and communication (1.1 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for medical care (-0.9 percent) and recreation (-0.7 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy rose 3.2 percent. Components contributing to the increase included shelter (6.7 percent) and to a lesser extent medical care (1.2 percent). Partly offsetting the increases were price declines in apparel and other goods and services, which declined 0.7 percent each.

Table A. Portland CPI-U semi-annual and annual percent changes (not seasonally adjusted)

Month	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016	
	Semi-annual	Annual										
First Half.....	1.8	2.6	1.2	2.5	1.3	2.2	1.0	2.6	0.1	1.3	0.7	1.7
Second Half.....	1.3	3.1	0.9	2.1	1.5	2.8	1.2	2.3	1.0	1.1		

The second half of 2016 Consumer Price Index for the Portland-Salem, OR is scheduled to be released on mid-January 2017.

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 28 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as

professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately 24,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17_a.htm.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The Portland-Salem, OR, WA metropolitan area covered in this release consists of Clackamas, Columbia, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Washington, and Yamhill Counties in the State of Oregon and Clark County in the State of Washington.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes for semiannual averages and percent changes for selected periods Portland-Salem, OR-WA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 1st half 2016 from-	
	1st half 2015	2nd half 2015	1st half 2016	1st half 2015	2nd half 2015
Expenditure category					
All items.....	242.976	245.405	247.143	1.7	0.7
All items (1967=100).....	711.334	718.442	723.531	-	-
Food and beverages.....	232.798	232.739	232.297	-0.2	-0.2
Food.....	235.511	235.428	234.485	-0.4	-0.4
Food at home.....	220.348	219.360	217.569	-1.3	-0.8
Food away from home.....	259.985	261.379	261.834	0.7	0.2
Alcoholic beverages.....	205.775	205.985	210.728	2.4	2.3
Housing.....	241.505	248.253	254.357	5.3	2.5
Shelter.....	282.733	292.802	301.740	6.7	3.1
Rent of primary residence.....	282.054	292.109	302.277	7.2	3.5
Owners' equiv. rent of residences ⁽¹⁾	294.635	305.104	314.407	6.7	3.0
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾	294.635	305.104	314.407	6.7	3.0
Fuels and utilities.....	261.482	262.123	257.600	-1.5	-1.7
Household energy.....	209.669	208.248	202.297	-3.5	-2.9
Energy services.....	257.691	256.444	248.908	-3.4	-2.9
Electricity.....	300.443	300.854	294.026	-2.1	-2.3
Utility (piped) gas service.....	169.206	165.000	156.704	-7.4	-5.0
Household furnishings and operations.....	105.230	103.998	105.882	0.6	1.8
Apparel.....	127.149	126.788	126.307	-0.7	-0.4
Transportation.....	220.578	217.482	213.566	-3.2	-1.8
Private transportation.....	223.573	220.921	214.429	-4.1	-2.9
Motor fuel.....	236.809	231.202	195.237	-17.6	-15.6
Gasoline (all types).....	238.707	233.415	197.111	-17.4	-15.6
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁽²⁾	236.265	230.443	193.746	-18.0	-15.9
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{(2) (3)}	203.349	199.685	170.250	-16.3	-14.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁽²⁾	222.462	219.688	188.269	-15.4	-14.3
Medical care.....	529.893	540.855	536.015	1.2	-0.9
Recreation ⁽⁴⁾	110.166	108.598	107.822	-2.1	-0.7
Education and communication ⁽⁴⁾	114.984	113.115	114.347	-0.6	1.1
Other goods and services.....	470.858	469.041	467.414	-0.7	-0.3
Commodity and service group					
All Items.....	242.976	245.405	247.143	1.7	0.7
Commodities.....	178.573	177.714	174.372	-2.4	-1.9
Commodities less food & beverages.....	152.218	150.988	146.300	-3.9	-3.1
Nondurables less food & beverages.....	189.034	188.622	178.594	-5.5	-5.3
Durables.....	113.046	111.079	111.463	-1.4	0.3
Services.....	307.892	313.596	320.472	4.1	2.2
Special aggregate indexes					
All items less medical care.....	230.190	232.264	234.220	1.8	0.8
All items less shelter.....	228.285	227.369	226.027	-1.0	-0.6
Commodities less food.....	154.070	152.895	148.582	-3.6	-2.8
Nondurables.....	209.650	209.410	204.134	-2.6	-2.5
Nondurables less food.....	189.217	188.852	180.026	-4.9	-4.7
Services less rent of shelter ⁽¹⁾	346.259	345.369	349.313	0.9	1.1
Services less medical care services.....	292.427	297.989	305.090	4.3	2.4
Energy.....	222.367	218.945	198.429	-10.8	-9.4

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes for semiannual averages and percent changes for selected periods Portland-Salem, OR-WA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 1st half 2016 from-	
	1st half 2015	2nd half 2015	1st half 2016	1st half 2015	2nd half 2015
All items less energy.....	247.944	250.870	254.398	2.6	1.4
All items less food and energy.....	252.108	255.632	260.086	3.2	1.7

(1) Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

(2) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(3) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

(4) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.